

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 TRSE-00 INSE-00 L-03 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SCA-01 SY-03 SCCT-02

EUR-25 DRC-01 /084 W

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O 091534Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5442

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E. O. 11652: /A

TAGS: ETRN BF

SUBJ: CIVAIR - PRECLEARANCE

REF: STATE 68952

BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HANDED TEXT LETTER GIVEN IN REFTEL TO DANN LEWIS AT MEETING APRIL 8. ALTHOUGH LEWIS INDICATED SOME SURPRISE AT LAST-MINUTE NATURE OF ORTMAN COMMENTS, HE SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH MINISTER MAYNARD IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE CHANGES INCORPORATED IN DRAFT TO BE CONSIDERED BY GCOB CABINET APRIL 9. END SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS MET WITH LEWIS AT FIRST AVAILABLE MOMENT, AFTERNOON OF APRIL 8, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TRINIDAD. LEWIS WAS GIVEN COPY OF ORTMAN LETTER. HE WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT LAST-MINUTE TIMING OF COMMENTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND AT THEIR CONTRAST WITH WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY, BUT WAS POSITIVE IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD ACCOMMODATING THEM. HE HAD THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC REATIONS.

2. RENTAL QUESTION. LEWIS AGREED THAT SOME CONFUSION HAD ARISEN ON RENTAL QUESTION. HE SAID CONCERN WAS THAT BAHAMAS

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RECEIVE EQUALITY OF TREATMENT WITH BERMUDA, AND THAT IF BER-

MUDA DID NOT RECEIVE RENTAL THERE WAS NOT PROBLEM FOR BAHAMAS IN NOT RECEIVING ANY EITHER. LEWIS WILL RECOMMEND THAT REFERENCE TO RENTAL BE DELETED IN VIEW US ASSURANCES CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS WITH BERMUDA.

3. CONVEYORS VICE COUNTERS. THE PREFERENCE FOR COUNTERS WAS BASED ON TECHNICAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN DON BROGDEN OF MINISTRY OF WORKS AND US CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN NASSAU AND WASHINGTON, ALL OF WHOM APPARENTLY AGREED THAT CONVEYORS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY HERE. THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM HAS REQUESTED AN APPROPRIATION TO COVER COST OF CONVEYORS IN ANY CASE, SO THAT IS NOT A PROBLEM. PERHAPS THE BEST COURSE IS TO LEAVE THE REFERENCE TO CONVEYORS IN THE AGREEMENT AND THEN, AFTER THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED, TALK AGAIN WITH US CUSTOMS ABOUT THE MOST PRACTICAL SYSTEM.

4. FOUR MONTHS VICE NINE MONTHS. LEWIS' CONCERN ON THIS POINT WAS THAT IF CONVEYORS ARE FOUND TO BE NECESSARY, IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE INSTALLATION WITHIN 120 DAYS, SINCE IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO GET DELIVERY FROM THE US OF THE NECESSARY MATERIALS AND MACHINERY. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT SOME FORMULATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ALONG THE LINES OF "120 DAYS, SUBJECT TO THE PERFORMANCE OF SUB-CONTRACTORS ON THE DELIVERY OF CONVEYORS." LEWIS INDICATED THAT, ASIDE FROM CONVEYOR DELIVERY, 120-DAY LIMIT POSED NO PROBLEM AND SAID HE WOULD SO RECOMMEND.

5. LEWIS SAID HE WOULD TAKE OORTMAN'S POINTS TO MINISTER MAYNARD AND RECOMMEND THAT LATTER GO AHEAD WITH CABINET CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT ON APRIL 9. AMBASSADOR AND LEWIS AGREED THAT BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO GET SIGNING AUTHORITY APRIL 9, AND SIGN IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD COME BACK LATER AND BE UNREASONABLE ABOUT THE LETTER OF THE AGREEMENT. BOTH AGREED THAT ALTERNATIVE TO THIS COURSE IS INDEFINITE DELAY WITHIN GCOB.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AGREEMENT DRAFT, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, RENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NASSAU00647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-0228
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740455/aaaabygy.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 68952
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <11-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - PRECLEARANCE
TAGS: ETRN, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005